

With more than 367 miles of cave passageways, Mammoth Cave ranks as the longest known cave in the world. Mammoth Cave National Park was established in 1941. In 1981, the park was designated a World Heritage Site, and became the core area of an International Biosphere Reserve in 1990. The park merits this extra protection and special status for its spectacular features on the surface and in the cave, and the way they illustrate the connection between humans and their environment.

Ranger-Led Activity Schedule • Spring 2010

March 13 – May 28, 2010

Ranger-Led	Departures	▶The Following Items are not permitted on Cave Tours: Camera bags and tripods, strollers, luggage (suitcases, duffel bags, etc.), backpacks, bags of any type (including purses and diaper bags). Bags containing necessary medicinal supplies are permitted, but must be inspected and tagged as approved at the visitor center. ▶The following items are not permitted on cave tours or in the visitor center: Any other type of weapon (clubs, batons, brass knuckles, etc.), pepper spray/mace, sharp intstruments (box cutters, scissors, etc.), knives, firearms. Secure these items in your vehicle, or in one of the lockers provided at the bus loading area.
Mammoth Passage Tour*	2:45 (Fri/Sat), 4:30	
Frozen Niagara Tour	8:45, 12:00, 3:00, 4:15	
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour*	Offered when visitation warrants	
Historic Tour	8:45, 9:45, 12:00, 12:45 (Sat/Sun), 3:00, 3:45 (Sat/Sun)	
New Entrance Tour	9:00, 9:30 (Sat/Sun), 11:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:45	
Grand Avenue Tour	10:00	
Snowball Tour	10:15	
Violet City Lantern Tour	2:15	
Star Chamber Tour	6:00 p.m. (Fri/Sat)	▶Please Take Note: White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease in bats that is killing these vital animals by the millions, is a potential threat to Mammoth Cave and the bats that live here. The Park’s efforts to prevent WNS here may affect what you can wear or bring with you into the cave. Clothing, footwear and handheld items that have previously been worn in caves or mines in certain areas may not be brought into Mammoth Cave. To learn if these limitations might include items you wear or carry, click here to visit the White-Nose Syndrome page on the park’s website at: www.nps.gov/macal/whitenose.htm .
Trog	2:00 (Sat/Sun)	
Introduction to Caving	9:30 (Sat/Sun)	
Wild Cave Tour	9:00 (Sat/Sun; begins daily May 8)	
Ranger-Led Surface Walks – Free of Charge		
River Styx Spring Walk	8:45	
Sand Cave Almanac	3:30 (Fri/Sat)	
Slavery and Mammoth Cave Walk	1:45 (Fri/Sat)	
Campfire program	8:15 p.m. (Fri/Sat)	
*Not available by reservation. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center on day of tour only.		
Note age limits on certain tours: Wild Cave Tour–16 years+; Introduction to Caving–10 years+; Grand Avenue Tour–6 years+		
Visitor Center Hours: 8:00am – 6:15pm Central Time		

Prices				
<i>Cave Tour</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Youth*</i>	<i>Special Access**</i>	<i>Educational***</i>
Mammoth Passage Tour	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	
Frozen Niagara Tour	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00	
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour	\$4.00	\$2.50	\$2.00	
Historic Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
New Entrance Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	
Grand Avenue Tour	\$24.00	\$18.00	\$12.00	
Snowball Tour	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$7.00	
Violet City Lantern Tour	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$7.50	
Star Chamber Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Trog	\$0.00	\$14.00	\$0.00	
Introduction to Caving	\$23.00	\$18.00	\$11.50	
Wild Cave Tour	\$48.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	

Youth is 6 -12 years of age. **Special access prices are for visitors presenting Golden Age, Golden Access, and America The Beautiful Senior and Access Passes. *Educational prices apply to Kindergarten-College groups. Please call the park at 270.758.2180 to schedule your educational group. †Box office only—not available by reservation.*

For full park information, go online to www.nps.gov/macal or call 270.758.2180.

Interested in a second cave tour?

A \$3 second-tour discount may apply to Historic, New Entrance, Frozen Niagara, and Mammoth Passage tours if purchased in person at the park for tours on the same day. Note: The entire Frozen Niagara Tour route is seen on the New Entrance Tour. Parts of Mammoth Passage Tour are seen on Historic.

Getting Here


Mammoth Cave National Park is located near Interstate 65 in southcentral Kentucky, about 90 miles from both Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN. From the north, take exit 53 (Cave City); from the south, take Exit 48 (Park City). Signs will direct you to the park Visitor Center. Our address is 1 Mammoth Cave Parkway, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

We're in the Central Time Zone!

Reservations

Please note that Mammoth Cave National Park offers a number of guided tours, both on the surface and underground. Demand is high for these popular activities—tours can, and do, sell out. You may reserve tickets in advance for cave tours by calling (877)444-6777. Campground reservations are also available through this service. You may also make your reservations via internet using the address:

www.recreation.gov

For Reservations. . .	
By Phone:	(877)444-6777
TDD (hearing impaired):	(877)833-6777
Payment. . .	
Cancellation. . .	
Cancellation fees apply. Call (888)448-1474 for more information.	
Call Center Hours. . .	
9:00 am – 9:00 pm Central Time, 7 days a week.	

New Firearms Regulations

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in this park. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local and federal laws before entering this park. As a starting point, please visit the Kentucky State Police website at: www.kentuckystatepolice.org/conceal.htm. ►Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. Simply put, this means that visitors will be able to openly carry firearms on trails, in campgrounds, in the camp store or any other area in which carrying is not specifically prohibited. Persons with valid concealed weapons permits may carry concealed weapons in these areas also. **All firearms are Strictly Prohibited from the following areas**, regardless of whether the visitor has a valid concealed weapons permit: ►ALL government buildings that are classified as a federal facility; ►ALL cave tours; ►ALL buses used to carry visitors for cave tours; ►The Mammoth Cave Hotel Lobby, Rotunda Room, gift shops and dining areas. All of these areas will be identified with an NPS-approved “No Firearms Allowed” decal or placard.



Camping & Picnic Shelter Fees			
<i>Location</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Regular</i>	<i>Special Access</i>
Mammoth Cave CG	Regular	\$17.00	\$8.50
Mammoth Cave CG	VIP Public	\$40.00	\$20.00
Mammoth Cave CG	Group	\$20.00	
Maple Springs CG	Group	\$30.00	
Maple Springs CG	Horse - Hookups	\$30.00	
Maple Springs CG	Horse - Primitive	\$22.00	
Houchin Ferry CG	Primitive	\$12.00	\$6.00
Picnic Shelter	Open Air	\$25.00/day	
<i>One shelter; limited availability.</i>			
Picnic Shelter	Enclosed	\$50.00/day	
<i>One shelter; available weekends from March 1 to Memorial Day; Daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from Labor Day to November 30.</i>			

Mammoth Cave
National Park

Ranger-Led Programs





Spring • 2010

Underground Tours

INTRODUCTORY CAVE TOURS

GENERAL CAVE TOURS

Mammoth Passage Tour

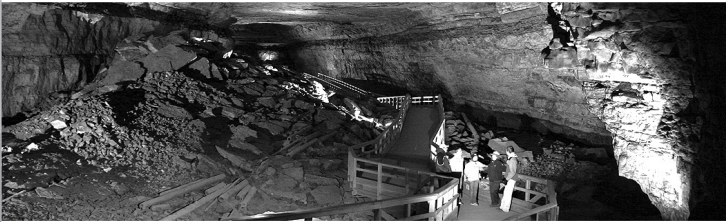
►Follow your guide to the Historic Entrance where the cave was first discovered more than 4,000 years ago. Entering the cave, imagine early visitors as they walked through these “Mammoth Passages”. Visit one of the largest rooms in the cave and see remains of an early mining operation. ►1¼ hours, ¾ mile. Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160’. ►Includes parts of the Historic and all of the Discovery tour routes. Not available by reservation. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Easy.**

Frozen Niagara Tour

►Depart by bus and journey to the Frozen Niagara Entrance, created in 1924. Enter one of the most “decorated” areas of the cave and learn how this “flowing rock” is formed. Descend optional steps under the Frozen Niagara formation to visit the Drapery Room. ►1¼ hours, ¼ mile. Tour limit: 36. Total stairs: 12, plus an optional 98. Elevation change: 40’. ►Includes parts of the New Entrance and Grand Avenue tour routes. Not available by reservation. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Easy.**

Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour

►Visit the Rotunda, one of the largest rooms in the cave, explore a vast canyon passageway, and learn about 19th-century saltpeter mining operations and the geologic origins of Mammoth Cave on this self-guiding tour. ►½ hour, ¾ mile. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160’. ►Includes part of the Historic and the full Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Offered as visitation warrants. Call the Park the day of your visit to check availability. Not available by reservation. ►Meets at the Historic Entrance. **Difficulty: Easy.**



Historic Tour

►Entering the cave through the Historic Entrance, you will feel the excitement that intrigued the earliest explorers and visitors. Experience the history and the role that Mammoth Cave played during the War of 1812. Large passages invite you to imagine the prehistoric discoverers who walked these passages over 2,000 years ago. Descend deeper and trace the steps of the first explorers over Bottomless Pit and through Fat Man’s Misery. Climb 155 stairs up Mammoth Dome and exit through the Historic Entrance. ►2 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 120. Total stairs: 440, including 155 at Mammoth Dome. Elevation change: 300’. ►Limited areas of the Mammoth Cave Discovery, Mammoth Passage, Star Chamber, River Styx and Violet City Lantern Tours are visited on this route. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**

GENERAL CAVE TOURS

New Entrance Tour

►A ten-minute bus ride carries you to the New Entrance – discovered and opened in the 1920s, it provided a new way to see Mammoth Cave. Impressive pits, domes, and a few narrow openings soon give way to large passages and underground hill climbs. Follow your guide to the Frozen Niagara formation, discovered in 1923. From Frozen Niagara to the cave exit you will pass through one of the most decorative and photographed areas of Mammoth Cave. ►2 hours, ¾ mile. Tour limit: 114. Total stairs: 500, including 280 on initial descent. Elevation change: 250’. ►Includes the complete Frozen Niagara Tour route and a portion of the Grand Avenue Tour route. If you have weak knees, think twice about taking this tour. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**



Grand Avenue Tour

►This physically demanding trip will give you an excellent idea of the size and complexity of the Mammoth Cave system. Learn of the interwoven natural and cultural history of the cave as your journey takes you through some of the most dramatic passages in this “mammoth” cave. Walk through gypsum lined passages, narrow canyons, underground hills, large rooms, and areas with dripstone formations. ►4½ hours, 4 miles. Tour limit: 78. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 670. Elevation change: 280’, with hills more than 60’ in some places. ►The Snowball and Frozen Niagara Tour routes, and portions of the New Entrance tour route, are seen on this tour. This tour is not recommended for visitors who have heart or respiratory illnesses, diabetes or walking difficulty. Food is available at the Snowball Room. Box lunch cost \$7.50—(cash only). Food is allowed only at Snowball Room. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Strenuous.**

Snowball Tour

►A descent down nearly 200 stairs at the Carmichael Entrance leads to a showcase of gypsum in various crystalline shapes and sizes. The beautifully elliptical Cleaveland Avenue terminates in the Snowball Room, first seen in the 1840s. Food may be purchased during the 45 minutes spent in this room, traditionally a 20th-century underground meal stop. Visitors retrace the route and ascend nearly 200 stairs at Carmichael Entrance. ►3 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 38. Total stairs: 366 (183 in and out). Elevation change: 267’. ►This entire route is seen on the Grand Avenue Tour. Food is available at the Snowball Room. Box lunch costs \$7.50—(cash only). Food is allowed only at Snowball Room. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**

SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES

Violet City Lantern Tour

►Explore some of the cave’s largest passages by lantern as guides recreate the ambiance of the first flame-lit tours. Experience the shadowed illusions that inspired Ralph Waldo Emerson and others of his day. See evidence of prehistoric mining, historic saltpetre production, and the remains of an underground hospital. ►3 hours, 3 miles. Tour limit: 38. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 160, and numerous hills without handrails. Elevation change: 160’. ►Includes parts of the Historic, Discovery, Star Chamber, and Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry the provided lanterns. No flash photography or flashlights permitted. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Strenuous.**

Star Chamber Tour

►See the cave as it was seen by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Jenny Lind and other nineteenth-century notables. Enter Mammoth Cave’s Historic Entrance by lantern light, following the path taken daily by Dr. John Croghan as he tended consumptive patients in his “hospital” underground. See the illusion of a night sky in a room called “Star Chamber”. Follow your guide into mystical Gothic Avenue, then retrace your steps and exit the cave into another star chamber above Kentucky’s nocturnal landscape. ►2½ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 40. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 160’. ►Includes parts of the Historic, Discovery, Violet City Lantern, and Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry the provided lanterns. No flash photography or flashlight use on this tour. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**



Trog

►A kids-only off-trail adventure! Hike through the forest to the Historic Entrance and find out how the surface and subsurface are connected. Put on your hard hat and headlamp (provided) as you travel off-trail. Unlock the secrets of how the animals of Mammoth Cave survive in the deep dark as you hike, crawl and belly-slide through rarely visited passages. ►2½ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 12. Age limit: 8-12 years only. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 180’. ►Parents, guardians and/or chaperones must attend the first 15 minutes of the tour and help children “suit up” with their equipment, and must pick up children promptly at the end of the tour. Hard hats, headlamps and kneepads are provided; long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Gardening gloves are nice, too. Sturdy shoes or hiking boots are required. No open toes or sandals. ►Meets at the Visitor Center flagpole. **Difficulty: Moderate.**

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES

Introduction to Caving

►Want to really go caving, but afraid the Wild Cave Tour is a bit too much? Try this shorter caving challenge. Includes crawling and climbing, but less of it. This team-building activity is a good one for family members ages ten and older. Adults must accompany children (on this and all cave tours, with the exception of the Trog Tour). ►3½ hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 20. Age limit: 10 and older. Total stairs: 280+. Elevation change: 250’. ►An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. Chest or hip measurement **must not exceed 42 inches**; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. **You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions.** Work or climbing gloves and long pants are recommended—do not overdress. Helmets, lights and kneepads provided. You may bring a small bag to carry water, but both hands must remain free for crawling and climbing. Bring no cameras—there will be no opportunity to use them on this activity. Requires at least 4 participants. Reserved tickets not claimed 30 minutes prior to tour departure may be re-sold. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Strenuous.**

Wild Cave Tour

►This is the tough one you have heard about! Visitors ages 16 and older crawl, climb, squirm and sweat their way through some of the many undeveloped passages in Mammoth Cave! Have a strong fear of heights or tight places? Really out of shape or need to lose a lot of weight? This is not the trip for you! A great team-building experience. ►6-6½ hours, 5 miles. Tour limit: 14. Age limit: 16+; proof of age may be requested. Elevation change: 300’. ►An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. ►Chest or hip measurement **must not exceed 42 inches**; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. **You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions.** Work or climbing gloves and long pants are recommended—do not overdress. Helmets and lights provided. Participants are strongly urged to bring soft kneepads; hard plastic kneepads not permitted. Food is available at the Snowball Room. A box lunch can be purchased for \$7.50 (cash only). Visitors may bring a lunch and/or water bottle in a small fanny pack or small backpack. Both hands must remain free for climbing and crawling. Bring no cameras—there will be no opportunity to use them on this activity. Requires at least 2 participants. Reserved tickets not claimed 30 minutes prior to tour departure may be re-sold. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Very Strenuous.**